AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

32. (currently amended) An immunogenic composition which comprises a fusion protein comprising an HIV Tat protein or a mutant thereof linked to an HIV Nef protein ~~or a mutant thereof~~, wherein the HIV Tat protein or a mutant thereof and the HIV Nef protein ~~proteins or mutants thereof~~ are linked in any orientation, wherein the mutant of the HIV Tat protein is biologically inactive while maintaining its immunogenic epitopes and bears mutations in the active site and RGD motif, wherein the fusion protein is optionally linked to a fusion partner, and wherein the fusion protein is in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

33. (currently amended) A composition as claimed in claim 32, comprising a Tat-Nef fusion protein or a mutant Tat-Nef fusion protein ~~thereof~~.

34. (currently amended) A composition as claimed in claim 32, comprising a Nef-Tat fusion protein or a ~~mutant~~ Nef-mutant Tat fusion protein ~~thereof~~.

35. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 32, wherein the Tat protein is a ~~mutated~~ mutant Tat protein wherein the mutant Tat protein is biologically inactive while maintaining its immunogenic epitopes and bears mutations in the active site and RGD motif,.

36. (canceled)

37. (canceled)

38. (canceled)

39. (previously presented) The composition as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the fusion partner comprises between 100-130 amino acids from the N-terminal of Haemophilus influenza B protein D.

40. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 32, wherein the Tat protein is the entire Tat protein.

41. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 32, wherein the Nef protein is the entire Nef protein.

42. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 32, wherein the Tat protein is fused to an HIV Nef protein and a fusion partner.

43. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 32, wherein the protein has a Histidine tail.

44. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 32, wherein the protein is carboxymethylated.

45. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 32, additionally comprising an adjuvant.

46. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 45, wherein the adjuvant is a TH1 inducing adjuvant.

47. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 45 which adjuvant comprises monophosphoryl lipid A or a derivative thereof such as 3 de-O-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A.

48. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 45, additionally comprising a saponin adjuvant.

49. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 48 which additionally comprises an oil in water emulsion.

50. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 32 further comprising HIV gp160 or its derivative gp120.

51. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 45 further comprising HIV gp160 or its derivative gp120.

52. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 48 further comprising HIV gp160 or its derivative gp120.

53. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 49 further comprising HIV gp160 or its derivative gp120.

54. (currently amended) A protein comprising an HIV Tat protein or a mutant thereof linked to an HIV Nef protein ~~or a mutant thereof~~ in Nef-Tat or Tat-Nef orientation, wherein the mutant of the HIV Tat protein is biologically inactive while maintaining its immunogenic epitopes and bears mutations in the active site and RGD motif.

55-77. (canceled)

78. (previously presented) The composition as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the fusion partner comprises at least the N-terminal third of Haemophilus influenzae B protein D.

79. (new) The composition as claimed in Claim 32 wherein the fusion protein comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in a member selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 13, 17, 21 and 24.